



# NEWS RELEASE

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**District:** 5 – San Luis Obispo

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SHANDON ROADSIDE REST AREA ON HWY. 46 WILL OPEN TOMORROW

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY** – Caltrans has announced that the new Shandon Roadside Rest Area on State Highway 46 will open at 5 pm on Tuesday, February 8 after being closed for one year for a complete renovation. The popular rest area between the Central Coast and the San Joaquin Valley is used by more than 1.5 million visitors annually. The construction cost (\$3 million) for the project was funded entirely by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

“The Shandon Rest Area is an oasis for commuters, tourists, and trucks moving goods between the Central Coast and the San Joaquin Valley. The new, improved rest area will provide the public a safe convenient, attractive and informative stopping place,” said Caltrans Director Cindy McKim.

The original Shandon Rest Area (built in 1979) had become outdated, costly to maintain, and no longer met the needs of the massive numbers of annual users. The contractor for the project, Specialty Construction, Inc. of San Luis Obispo, completely rebuilt the rest area. The transformation included construction of new, expanded restroom facilities, upgrades to parking, pedestrian safety improvements and repairing or replacing electrical, sewer and water systems.

Amenities now available for the public to enjoy at the site include information kiosks, historic displays, picnic tables, vending machines and trash and recycling containers. The overhaul improved safety for the traveling public and the rest area now meets the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

California has obligated nearly \$2.6 billion in Recovery Act funding to nearly 1,000 transportation projects and job training statewide. For more information on the Recovery Act visit: <http://recovery.ca.gov/>

